

Join us for hot maple syrup sundaes Saturday at the Ma- ple Syrup Festival!

Only \$3 for CSB/SJU students and yes, you can charge your
valedine!



SJU's John Smith tastes some fresh maple sap!

What are springtails?... Springtails are the most abundant soil-dwelling organisms worldwide, second only to soil-dwelling mites. They are tiny arthropods that range in size from .25 to 8mm long. Springtails can be a variety of different colors and patterns including white, pale brown, red, and even purple. There are over 6,000 species of springtails, and they can be found nearly all over the world, including Antarctica! In Minnesota, springtails are found in moist environments including leaf litter, under bark, worm beds, snow fields, basements, bathrooms, and sinks. They eat decaying matter, fungi, bacteria, arthropod feces, algae, and pollen. Look for springtails on your next Arboretum walk! They are especially visible on warm days on top of the snow, when they look like black specks.

<http://www.vegedge.umn.edu/vegpest/beneficials/Springtails.htm>

Q: What is smaller than a springtail's dinner?

A: An springtail's mouth!

Q: What game do springtails play with elephants?

A: Squash!

Maple Syrup Festival- Saturday April 4

Since the early 1940's the Saint John's community has participated in this annual rite of spring. Join the Arboretum for sap collecting, syrup cooking, horse-drawn rides, demonstrations, and hot maple syrup sundaes! It's sure to be a **sweet** time! Come to the Sugar Shack between **1-4 p.m.**

Maple Syrup Volunteering

Want to know more about the process of making maple syrup? Volunteers are always welcome to help collect sap, cook syrup, or help at our festivals. Email arboretum@csbsju.edu and let us know you want to get involved!

The Voices of Minnesota Frogs- Tuesday April 21

Join Frank Ziegler (SJU '03), member of the Minnesota Herpetological Society, to learn about frogs in our area. From the earliest spring peepers to the last sounds of summer, Frank will walk us through the frog calling season and help us to identify which species are calling and why. Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30 p.m.**

Spring Plant Sale- May 9

Come stock up on plants and garden tools at the Spring Plant Sale. The sale takes place at the New Science Pendulum from **8:30 a.m.- noon**, or whenever we are sold out!

Spring Birding Day- May 9

Saint John's Arboretum and the Minnesota Ornithologists Union (MOU) have partnered to bring you a day of hiking through an "Important Bird Area" in Minnesota during peak migration! We have seen 100+ species in past years at Saint John's! In addition to birding, participants will have a chance to hear from local birding experts. [Learn more and pre-register online!](#)

Bird Migration in Minnesota- May 19

Learn all about the great migratory birds of Minnesota! This session will be led by Bob Russell from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and SJU alum. Meet at the New Science Pendulum at **6:30 p.m.**

If you would like to be on the volunteer e-mail list for the Arboretum, e-mail arboretum@csbsju.edu.

**We'll be in touch...
Your friends at the Arboretum**

It's your backyard, so get out and play!

***Nature Notes is a weekly publication designed to keep you informed about exciting events offered by the Arboretum!

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